

District V Advisory Board Minutes
August 5, 2002
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August 5, 2002
7:00 p.m.

Auburn Hills Golf Course Clubhouse
443 S. 135th West

The District V Advisory Board meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Auburn Hills Golf Course Clubhouse at 335 S. 135th Street West. In attendance were the District V City Council Member & Vice-Mayor and nine (9) District Advisory Board Members. Five (5) City Staff were present and approximately 60 members of the public of which 57 signed the signup sheet.

Members Present

David Almes
Bob Bulman
Sean Cash
David Dennis
Amy Garcia
Maurice Ediger
Andy Johnson
Bob Sorenson
Fran Hoggatt
Vice Mayor Bob Martz

Members Absent

Teresa Schmidt
Margarita Farelle -Hunt

Staff Present

Rob Younkin, Public Works
Jay Newton, Finance
Officer Robert Ahsens, Police
Officer Alex Dean, Police
Officer Chris Mains, Police
Dana Brown, City Manager's Office

Guests

Listed on page 9.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05. **Vice Mayor Bob Martz** explained the purpose of the District Advisory Board as advisory to him as the elected representative for City Council District V.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The minutes for July 1, 2002 were approved with two (2) corrections for the department of a staff member and the identification of a DAB member citing an issue. Moved by Dennis (Bulman) and approved 9-0.

Action: Minutes were accepted with corrections (9-0).

Vice Mayor Martz stated that the agenda would be amended to allow Police to present earlier as they needed to attend another matter.

Public Agenda

1. Scheduled items .

Fireworks Concerns

Jim Noel, District V Resident, was not present to address the board with concerns about allowing fireworks in the city limits.

Request to Consider Opening Street

Robert Schmeidler, 6500 W. Juno, presented a request to open a barricaded street at 36th & S. Dugan. He stated that Dugan separates two housing areas and that he lives on the east side of Dugan in Prospect Park. Schmeidler said the two areas separated by Dugan Street are bordered by Ridge Road on the east, MacArthur to the south, and Hoover to the north. The main streets of 35th and 36th lead into Prospect Park from Ridge Road. He said that no existing streets run through from Ridge Road to Hoover causing concerns for access by school buses, trash trucks, fire trucks, EMS, etc. Schmeidler said that the street was constructed with curb by the county but it has always been closed. He stated that the area was annexed by the City about a year ago.

Vice Mayor Martz asked staff to meet with Public Works and Planning Departments on the issue to research and make recommendations to the DAB.

Action: Vice Mayor Martz referred issue to departments for research & feedback.

2. Off-agenda items

No items of concern or requests were presented to the board.

Staff Presentations

3. Community Police Report

Community Police Officers for District V reported on specific concerns for the area.

Officer Alex Dean, Beat 18, reported that police had focused on the second phase of addressing the large number of youth involved in drag racing. The first phase was to identify sites and observe; the second phase is enforcement that was recently carried out with several citations served including a DUI. Dean identified other issues for his beat including time spent on enforcement and vandalism at Pawnee Prairie Park. Signage stating no bikes had been destroyed several times. Police had also provided *Ident-a-Kid* for 30 kids at a community event and were planning to provide the service at the Health Fair at St. Luke's Methodist Church at 250 N. Meridian on Saturday, August 10. Dean also said that National Night Out would be celebrated on Tuesday, August 6. This is a nationwide event to become better acquainted with neighbors in an effort to prevent crime in the neighborhoods. Dean reminded everyone to call police if they see any concerns, as the residents are key to stopping neighborhood crime. Residents may call 911 or Patrol West at 941-0673.

Officer Bob Ahsens, Beat 19, said he had spent time with the drag racing also. He said it appeared to mostly occur in the south part of the city. He noted that vandalism had increased as well as larcenies including a 138% increase for auto larcenies in the beats associated with

Patrol West. Larcenies of auto accessories had also increased from unlocked vehicles. Ahsens urged citizens to use good prevention. He warned motorists to watch their speed on 21st. In addition, he supported Officer Dean's advice to call in if any concerns on observed.

Action: Receive and file.

Unfinished Business

3. Mountain Bike Trail in Pawnee Prairie Park

Amy Garcia, Committee Chair, presented an update on the work of the Committee. She introduced the Committee members in attendance by asking them to stand. Garcia read her report, noting that the issue was highly emotional. She explained that members had begun their work by reading several research articles provided by committee members. Air Capital Park, located adjacent to the north of Pawnee Prairie, had been explored as a possible option for a bike trail. Two concerns with the park as identified by committee members included: (1) impact on wildlife and, (2) regulations and impact on the floodplain due a recommendation to separate the two park areas by a fence that would need to be placed within the channel area of Cowskin Creek. Cowskin Creek flows through the area including Pawnee Prairie Park. Staff had contacted Bob Gress, Naturalist for the Great Plains Nature Center, for his opinion on mountain bikes impacting wildlife. Gress responded that in his opinion the bikes would not adversely affect wildlife. Chris Carrier, City's Storm Water Engineer, addressed possible impact on the floodplain from fencing by stating this was not advisable due to the debris that would collect around it.

Garcia then presented five options according to her perspective:

- 1) Do nothing – Garcia did not advise.
- 2) Designate mixed use – Garcia did not advise.
- 3) Develop a bike trail in Air Capital Park – Garcia noted that the City might not be supportive.
- 4) Explore other areas.
- 5) Connecting bike paths to biking areas.

Garcia noted that the City currently has no overall Park Master Plan but rather develops plans for each individual park. She requested that Vice Mayor Martz allow the committee one more month to consider the options through 1-2 additional meetings.

Vice Mayor Martz asked if the Board had questions about the committee's work. No one had questions. **Vice Mayor Martz** then opened the questions/comments to the public.

Bobby Smith, Committee Member and Oz Bicycle Club Member, stated that he thought the committee had failed with the assignment. He said that he felt bike trails in Pawnee Prairie Park were never considered as feasible. His opinion was that Air Capitol Park is okay but too small. In contrast, Pawnee Prairie Park has 600 acres. He didn't think the committee members were open-minded. **Garcia** responded that she hoped he would stay involved in the committee. She also stated that she thought feasibility was explored.

Sandra Hall, 2652 Glacier Drive, said that Pawnee Prairie Park is in her back yard and she greatly enjoys the wildlife. She wants to preserve the wildlife habitat. **Garcia** said that the City naturalist has already said that the wildlife would not be negatively impacted. **Vice Mayor Martz** then spoke of Bob Gress and his expertise as a naturalist. He noted that the task is to find out if Pawnee Prairie Park is feasible for a mountain bike trail and, if not, to explore other sites.

Cory Anderson, 1187 N. Oliver, Belle Plaine, and OZ Bicycle Club, asked if there was any reason, other than emotional, why mixed use areas are not being considered? He asked why the two communities could not work together. **Garcia** said she did not say that the two communities could not work together, but had said they won't work together. **Anderson** asked if the economic impact had been considered? He said that he lives outside of Wichita but comes into Wichita to ride. While he's here, he buys gasoline, a meal, and other items. **Vice Mayor Martz** responded that this point had been previously presented and that the goal was establishing a mountain bike trail somewhere in Wichita, if it is not feasible for Pawnee Prairie Park. **Anna Morrow, Haysville**, said she had just come back from a national forest where bicycles and motorbikes were prohibited due to the elks and bears. Morrow stated it does not work.

Becky Jackson, 2712 Glacier, said that Pawnee Prairie Park trails are located along Cowskin Creek. In some places, it is a twenty-foot drop to the creek and it is dangerous. Jackson said that although this was a point made previously, sudden surprises to horses make them spook and this should be strongly considered.

Jerry Bratton, no address given, spoke about his concerns for the vandalism in the park. He knew of instances when kids started fires.

Max Brant, 9111 W. 87th Street, Clearwater, said he was pleased that other places were being considered. He recalled an incident of a deer jumping out when his granddaughter was on a horse. The horse spooked and reared, causing the granddaughter to fall. If she had been on the trail in an area of high cliffs, she would likely have fallen over the cliff.

A question was raised about other areas to consider for a mountain bike trail. **Vice Mayor Martz** asked Park staff to respond. **Leah Hoffman, Parks & Recreation**, said that 71st North and Arkansas and 55th Street South, the south end of South Lake, were being considered. **Brant** suggested that an area south of landfill around K96 be considered. He said the area is located along the river and the Floodway. **Vice Mayor Martz** said the City would have to look at it. He noted that some restrictions exist from the Corps of Engineers regarding the floodway.

Bob Sorenson asked if alternate days at Pawnee Prairie Park could be considered. But **Garcia** responded that the enforcement of this would be very difficult.

Vice Mayor Martz stated that if the neither Board nor public had other comments that another month would be granted to the committee to complete their work. He also reminded everyone to vote tomorrow as several people left the meeting due to completing the review of the item.

Action: Receive and file.

Staff Presentations

4. 2003 Proposed City Budget

Jay Newton, Finance, presented next year's proposed budget for public comment. The budget is scheduled for adoption by City Council on August 13, 2002, to comply with state

law. Newton highlighted some challenges for the budget in that revenues were expected to decrease by 12% and expenditures for employee health insurance would increase by 20% increase. He said that the growth of the city would require more service and infrastructure including additional police beats—one each in Districts II and V; additional fire stations—one on the east side and possibly one on the west side in 2006; public street and other property maintenance including parks; and two employees for the Northwest Sewage Treatment Plant. Newton explained that the two positions would be supported through a 3% revenue increase expected by the Water & Sewer Department. He said that a new regional library at Arkansas and 25th Street would combine two smaller sites at Minisa and at Marina Lakes. The library will join other city departments currently offering services at Evergreen Park area. Newton also said that three new transit buses would be added to the City's inventory with a plan to install electronic boxes on the buses. He said that collection boxes tend to collect more fares.

Efficiencies outlined by Newton included improved inventory management, reduced positions, and a new practice by vendors to deliver to the work sites instead of the City picking up supplies, saving approximately \$250,000. In addition, the Information Technology services will be centralized—one such example is the Police IT program that collects information on safety through an interactive GIS (geographical interactive system) program. Combining responsibilities to eliminate a position decreased costs.

Vice Mayor Martz asked the Board Members for any questions or comments. **Dennis** stated that if the City wanted true feedback from the District Advisory Boards, they needed to provide the information earlier. Others agreed. **Hoggatt** asked what amount the City realized from property income; **Newton** said he really didn't know how the buying and selling of property figured out but suggested that she contact Property Management for that information. **Almes** asked if the purchase of the buses was primarily funded by federal funding. **Newton** said yes, approximately 80% of the expenditure was federal funding. **Hoggatt** asked why Economic Development was so low for 2002? **Newton** said most of the decrease was due to state accounting rules and the \$500,000 for the Fair Fares program. **Hoggatt** asked where revenues from the "bed tax" were directed to which **Newton** said the Century II Exposition Center and to the Convention and Tourism Center. **Johnson** said he thought pledges were subsidizing the Fair Fares Program to which **Newton** said the City pledged also. **Vice Mayor Martz** explained that the City's funding also acted as a reserve for the airlines if they lost income.

Hoggatt asked why golf courses were listed under Finance Department—**Newton** explained that maintenance had cost more than expected. **Ediger** asked if the recent fee increase wouldn't cover the unexpected costs but **Newton** said the fee increase was intended to renovate some of the clubhouses that hadn't been updated for many years.

Vice Mayor Martz asked for comments from the public. With none, he asked that the DAB comments be provided to Council, as directed.

Action: Provide comments as directed (Vice Mayor Martz).

Public Works

4. Proposed Improvement District

Rob Younkin, Public Works, presented again the proposal to construct a waterline distribution system in the additions of West Maple Gardens & Ernest Jordan along Julia from Taft to University. Handout information included identification of each property by owner and residential classification (resident owner/non-resident owner), area by square foot, estimated assessments, and petition signature percentages by area and resident owners. By previous request from the DAB for the same proposal presentation at the July 1st meeting, Younkin provided additional information to clarify definitions of *resident owner* and *non-resident owner* as well as what constitutes a valid petition by state statute.

Dennis and Sorenson asked for additional clarification of why all property owners do not pay based on square feet; **Younkin** replied that three methods of calculation are used including square foot, front footage, or fractional. The square foot method is typically used for platted properties. **Younkin** said the petitioner had requested the method of assessment and the additions to be included in the improvement district. Although Younkin stated that the petitioner would be assessed more than the other property owners, DAB Members expressed concern that the petitioner is paying less per square foot—\$.09/square foot in contrast to the other property owners paying \$.17/square foot.

The property owner of lots #4 and #5 at the corner of Taft & Julia asked about tying into the existing waterline adjacent on Taft. He explained that the largest portion of the house on lot #5 has City water while the remaining portion of the house and garage on lot #4 has a well. He expressed concern about paying for a water connection to lot #4 when it is not needed. **Younkin** replied that it could be needed at some future point. He explained that the property owner would have to re-plat the two (2) lots to be eligible for tying into the existing waterline and that re-platting would cost more than the waterline assessment and require considerable time.

But DAB Members recalled reviewing a zoning request to change land use for the Ernest Jordan Addition to commercial. With Jordan Addition being the largest property involved in the petition, the fairness to the property owners in the West Maple Gardens Addition was further questioned as an approach by the petitioner to require neighboring properties to pay for improvements by which the petitioner would financially benefit. The opinion of Board members was that the petition would have been more favorable had the cost been shared equally based on square footage. As a result, **Bulman (Dennis)** moved to recommend denial of the petition. The motion passed 9-0.

Vice Mayor Martz pointed out that for the Council to support a denial action, more than a simple majority would be required.

Action: The Board recommended denial of the petition (unanimous action 9-0).

Board Agenda

8. Updates, Issues, and Reports

Opportunity is provided for the Council Members and the District Advisory Board Members to report any activities, events, or concerns in the neighborhoods and/or District.

Vice Mayor Martz

Vice Mayor Martz explained the purpose of the Neighborhood Matching Grant Program and how the program is intended to enhance the neighborhood through resident participation on a project. He stressed that the applications need to propose neighborhood projects that would benefit the area and provide an opportunity for the neighbors to work together to build a sense of community. He told about some ideas of his own including a radar trailer that could be used by neighborhoods with concerns about speeding traffic. Residents could use the trailer to monitor speeds and alert drivers. He talked about possibly creating a mapping system for District V that could be displayed at different points to locate areas of interest in the district and also signage that attracts attention to special areas like schools (“Entering Grizzly Country” or “Entering Eagles Country”) or points of interest. He encouraged residents to submit applications for the grant program.

Under appointments to city committees and other boards, **Vice Mayor Martz** asked for volunteers interested in serving on the Clean Water Sub-Committee for the *Arkansas River Task Force*. **Ediger** said he would be willing to serve.

In other issues, **Vice Mayor Martz** reminded everyone about *Neighbors Night Out* and said that police had provided him a list of 30 neighborhoods in District V who had made plans for get-togethers in their area. He also said that he had many tickets to give away for the *Wichita Open Golf Tournament* on August 15-18th. He urged the public to pick up some tickets after the meeting is adjourned.

Vice Mayor Martz asked if any of the Board Members had concerns/issues/updates to share. **Garcia** reported on the work of the *Redistricting Committee*, noting the need to balance the populations in all districts. She said that Districts II and V had grown too large in comparison to the other districts and the challenge is to move approximately 13,000 total residents from District V to Districts IV and VI. Garcia said that District IV needs approximately 6,000 residents and District VI needs approximately 3,000 residents to balance. She explained that the committee is focusing on keeping Homeowner and Neighborhood Associations together and using natural borders such as the Floodway and I-235 as much as possible. Garcia said that three additional meetings would be held in order to provide a recommendation by September 30. **Vice Mayor Martz** said the Council would make the final decision in December. He said that Districts III and IV have some real challenges due to being locked in by city limits.

Vice Mayor Martz asked for other issues. **Clete Dold, Breezy Point**, asked about the status of work building the medians along W. Maple. It was noted that construction completion date of August 30th for the street is shown on the Public Works Weekly Projects List. Work on the medians would then begin. Dold also asked for clarifications on the grant. **Vice Mayor Martz** suggested that Dold visit with the Neighborhood Assistant after the meeting about the grant.

Bulman said he was glad that the issue in the Hoover & Zoo area had been resolved.

Ediger said he drove by the Westport temporary traffic circles to see how they were doing and a neighborhood reported to him that they were working to slow down traffic but the circles tended to be moved so one side or the other was blocked. Ediger then asked what is supposed to happen next? **Almes** replied that another traffic count would be taken after school begins. With those counts, Public Works Traffic Engineering would complete the report. Staff reported the progress of the staff committee considering the complaints associated with the intersection on Westport on the east side of Maize. It was explained that

Public Works and Police had suggested several feasible strategies, and that some could be implemented soon. **Bulman** remarked that full curbs were definitely needed at stops to prevent vehicles from driving over corners and private property. **Cash** added that full curbs were also needed at winding streets.

Ediger asked if a City policy was developed for cell towers? He told about being in the Los Angeles area and how their cell towers were camouflaged to look like trees. He said he hadn't noticed them until he was able to distinguish them while sitting at a ball game.

Johnson asked if any progress was made with the County addressing concerns with private ambulances and mortuary vehicles. **Vice Mayor Martz** replied that this issue is on his list for the Compact 2000 meetings. **Johnson** also asked if a traffic count would be conducted at the four-way stop at Central and 119th Street after school starts? **Vice Mayor Martz** said he would check into this issue.

Action: Staff will address issues, as appropriate.

9. Next Meeting

Due to Labor Day holiday on September 2, the next meeting for District Advisory Board V will be rescheduled to **September 9, 2002** at Auburn Hills Clubhouse at 7:00 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana L. Brown, Neighborhood Assistant
District V

Guests

Steve Pascale	Maple Valley HOA
Becky Sanders	Hutchinson
Scott LeForp	Wichita
Dan Jackson	Wichita
James Helms	Park City
Thomas Nesmith	Wichita
James White	Wichita
Tony Hewlett	Wichita
Aaron Redburn	Wichita
Chad Landwehr	Wichita
Bill Brown	Wichita
Becki Jackson	Wichita
Harriett Barber	Benton
Courtney Weingatz	Wichita
Max Brant	Colwich
Kay Brant	Colwich
Mike Novy	Murdock
Sandra Novy	Murdock
Denise Showalter	Wichita
Hiep Nguyen	Wichita
Kevin (Last name not legible)	Wichita
Kevin Piper	Wichita
Kim Howard	Valley Center
Stan Howard	Valley Center
Jim Mirk	None given
Kim Lorg	Clearwater
Linda McGrath	Wichita
Betty Ludwig	Bay Country HOA
Bob Schmeidler	6500 W. Juno - Prospect Park Addition
Ann Schmeidler	6500 W. Juno - Prospect Park Addition
Ellen Querner	1117 N. Roosevelt
Mike Nelson	1419 Chambers
Mark Moerner	1503 N. West St. # 6
Mike Pascal	2338 Redbud
Jon Chamberlain	8013 Dresden
Elmer Schmitz	302 S. Limuel
Jeanne Schmitz	302 S. Limuel
Rita Randleman	10021 W. Prairie Woods Ct
Gary Swartz	Wichita
Sara Rueschhoff	201 Maple Dunes
Jon Rueschhoff	201 Maple Dunes
Clete Dold	218 S. Breezy Point Circle
Clinton Hill	2428 N. Perry
Drew Hill	149 N. Vine
Mike Kirtley	2428 N. Perry

Sandra Hall	2652 Glacier Dr.
Greg Hall	2652 Glacier Dr.
David Ham	11109 W. Grant
Ed Antrim	616 Edinburg
William Moore	162 S. Forestview
Della Branine	23013 W. 47th S., Goddard
LaWanda Simmons	1640 Woodrow Ct.
Fern Simmons	1640 Woodrow Ct.
Cory Anderson	1187 N. Oliver, Belle Plaine
Dick Williams	125 S. Robin
Jack Steph	1041 N. Clara
Jason Loewen	900 N. Waco # 4103
Bobby Smith	No address given
Kay Brant	9111 W. 87th S. Clearwater
Max Brant	9111 W. 87th S. Clearwater
Dana Morrow	9401 W. 79th S. Clearwater